

TRANSLATION
LUNEBURG FUHLBUETTEL PRISON HOSPITAL
B U R G G R A F MZ 254/45

B/708

Feb 19th 48.

TO:- The High Military Court.

On Nov 17th 1945 I was sentenced in a Trial at Luneburg to 5 years of Zuchthaus. I am a Polish national and was interneed in a concentration-camp by the German Gestapo in Poland in 1940. The 7 years made of me a mental and corporal miserable. During my detention I caught a left-side pneumonic tuberculosis. It was only by a fortunate circumstance that I have preserved my life at all; for in the Nazi-regime all pneumonically diseased persons automatically went into the gas-chamber. It has to be attributed to my nervous state then that I was sentenced by the High Military Court on Nov 17th 1945 as I assaulted a fellow-prisoner in an over-irritated state. For this action one made me feel the whole strictness of the law and I was sentenced to 5 years of Zuchthaus. Now I have served 2 1/2 years of this sentence. For 8 years I have now been seperated from my country and my mother. I long for seeing them once again. In all my present sad condition my poor state of health has to be taken into consideration. For my pneumonic illness has detriobated so much that at present I already suffer from both the lungs. So I not only sacrificed years of my life through the Nazi-regime but also years of my liberty. Therefore I request the High Military Court to let the penalty I have served count as a sufficient atonement and to return to me the liberty I long for but also my parental home and my country.

P.T.O.

Soliciting you to grant my petition I am
y urs

sgd. BURGGRAF, Mierczyslaw.

219 81757
TRANSLATION

SUBJECT: Petition for Clemency - War Criminal BURGGRAF

On Feb 19th 1948, I presented a petition for clemency to the High Military Court; but it was rejected. I want to repeat my request in a more detailed manner. On Nov 17th 1945 I was sentenced by the High Military Court in the Lüneburg-Trial to 5 years of Zucht=haus. One must understand the circumstances which made me guilty in the sense of the Law. The prisoner whom I boxed on the ear had to be stopped in his actions in this manner for he stole from his fellow prisoners and the scanty food. So I did not act in the sense of the then camp-authority or for procuring myself a good reputation with the supervising SS. No, only for mere self-preservation. Looked upon with the human eye the matter was an individual one. But by the view of the horrors in Belsen-Camp my action got another light and it was seen as a crime against humanity. Should I have been alone under perhaps, the issue would have been another one for certain. I do not want, however, to cry out against that in any form. No - I only want to repeat my request for remitting me part of my sentence. I have already undergone 3 years of my 5 years imprisonment. My illness, (active pulmonic tuberculosis) has grown worse. And moreover yet. What have I got as yet of my life? For eight long years I have been from my country and want to see my old mother again once. For having been exposed to all whims of the then SS- and Gestapo-ways to and fro like a wounded deer. And no end as yet to say. "Free at last and you are allowed to go to your mother!"

To consider all circumstances again, the pro and the con and to let my 3 years account as an expiation for my action,

I am, yours,

respectfully

sgd. Miescyslaw BURGGRAF

KB 3156a